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# OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.,

IN REFERENCE TO

## PLAN FOR THE ARRANGEMENT OF PUBLIC GROUNDS IN FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AT OTTAWA

AS EXECUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DESIGN PREPARED BY

C. VAUX

ARCHITECT, NEW YORK.

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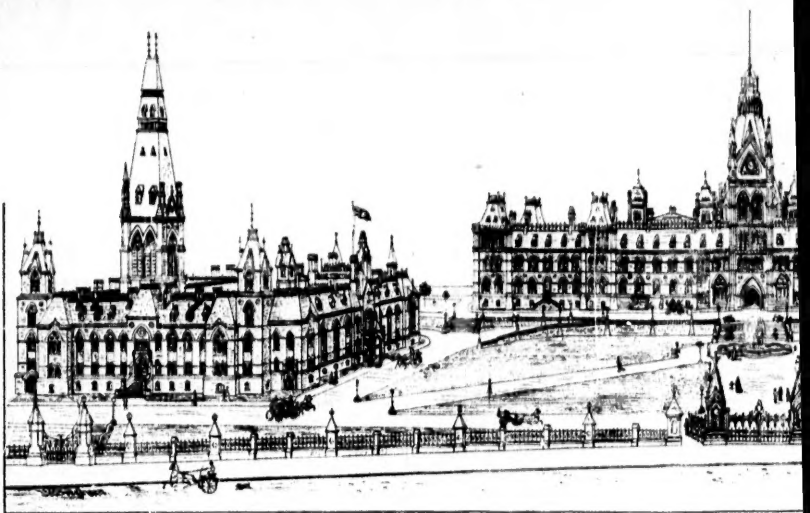
1873—1879

With a keen sense of the professional wrong that has been done to the undersigned, and in view of the statement of the late Minister of Public Works, (vide letter No. 6,) "*that it is not the intention of the Government to carry out your design,*" he respectfully asks a comparison of the works as executed with his original plan, a lithograph copy of which is annexed, and a perusal of his explanatory letter, together with the following correspondence.

C. VAUX,
*Architect.*

NEW YORK,
March, 1882.



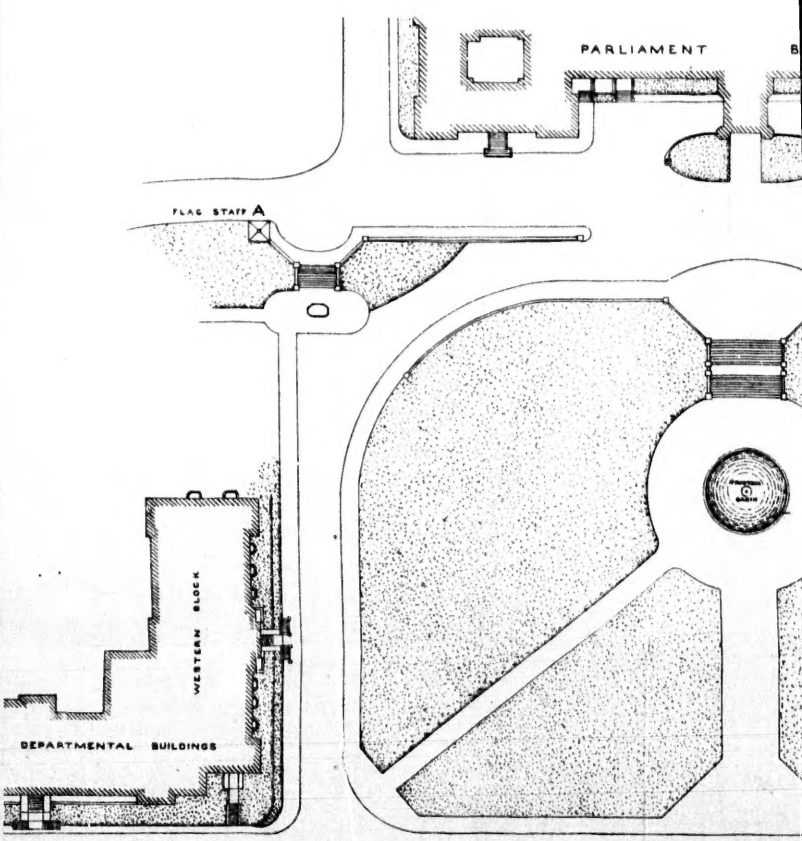
DEPARTMENTAL BUILDINGS.
(WESTERN BLOCK)

THE PARLIAMENT B

# PARLIAMENT

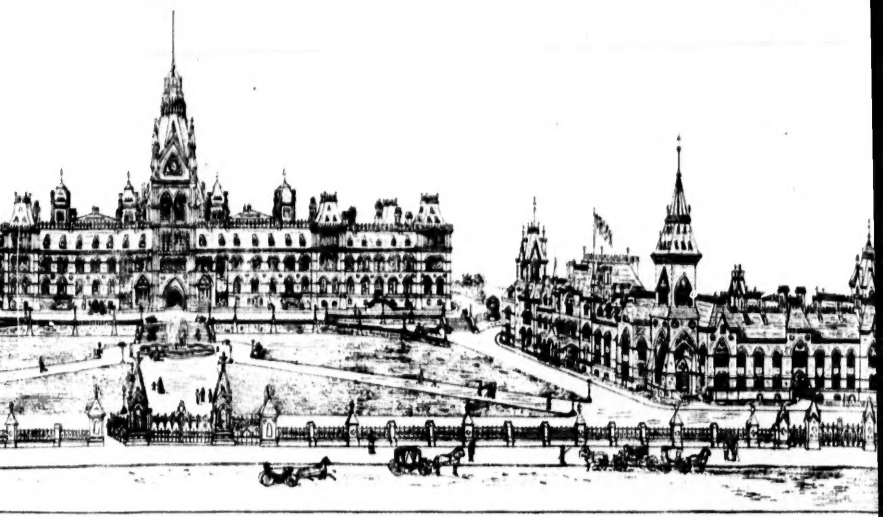
## OTTAWA. O

FROM A LITHOGRAPHIC VIEW ENTERED BY BELDEN & Cº, 1879, IN




STUDY FOR ARRANGEMENT OF GROUNDS ATTACHED TO TH

COPY OF PLAN FORWARDED TO MR. HOOTT, CHIEF ARCHITECT, WITH LETTER OF JUNE 20 1873.



THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING

DEPARTMENTAL BUILDINGS.
(EASTERN BLOCK)

# LIAMENT SQUARE,

OTTAWA. ONT.

EW ENTERED BY BELDEN & Cº, 1879, IN THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

PARLIAMENT BUILDING

NOTE

A DESIGN FOR ORNAMENTAL PLANTING
— SHOWN ON ORIGINAL PLAN —
IS OMITTED IN THIS COPY

B FLAG-STAFF.

EASTERN BLOCK

DEPARTMENTAL BUILD

UNDS ATTACHED TO THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT OTTAWA — CANADA.

H LETTER OF JUNE 20 1873. CALVERT VAUX — ARCHITECT.

BUILDINGS.
LOCK)

NTAL PLANTING.
NAL PLAN —
THIS COPY

13 8

# OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.,

## IN REFERENCE TO PLAN FOR THE ARRANGEMENT OF PUBLIC GROUNDS IN FRONT OF PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AT OTTAWA, DOMINION OF CANADA.

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**F. BRAÜN, Secretary Public Works Department, to T. S. SCOTT, Chief Architect.**

No 1.

*June* 6th 1873.

SIR,

I am directed by the Minister to instruct you to proceed to New York, and there consult with the Architect of the Central Park in regard to the projected laying out of the grounds of the Parliament Buildings here, and, if need be, to invite that gentleman to visit Ottawa, and to obtain his opinion in regard to the whole subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(s'd) F. BRAÜN,

*Secretary.*

T. S. SCOTT, Esq.,

*Chief Architect,*

*Dept. of Public Works,*

Ottawa.

**CALVERT VAUX, Architect, to T. S. SCOTT, Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa.**

No. 2.

110 BROADWAY, N. Y.,
*June* 20th, 1873.

DEAR SIR,

I send you herewith my study for the arrangement of the ground and terrace walls, in connection with the Government Buildings. The leading features of the design having been agreed on prior to your departure from New York.

The Plan explains itself, except in one particular, that is, the necessity for special emphasis at the points, **A.** & **B.** As the Parliament House stands at a conspicuously higher level than the Department Buildings, it seems very desirable to make the whole arrangment of the ground seem to grow out of this controlling and somewhat peculiar circumstance of the site. I propose therefore to carry the front of the upper terrace on a level and to terminate it with a flag-staff at each end, also to introduce projecting bays and steps at the angles, so that the appearance of steepness may be still further increased.

The slope of carriage road may then be separately treated, as shown, with easy grades, the stepped and curved line of its coping taking its proper subordinate place in the composition and rather helping the general effect than otherwise.

It will be judicious probably to expose the terrace wall about seven or eight feet, but the design should be fully developed (with stakes and connecting cords) before any contracts are made, so that this and other delicate points may be settled by observation of the actual relations of the new lines to existing work.

The subject was so fully discussed when you were last in my office, that it seems unnecessary for me to give here a more detailed explanation of the preliminary study. I refer again to the treatment of the Salient angles, because I believe that the successful solution of the prob-

lem must depend on some such management as I propose in regard to these two vitally important points.

I remain, Dear Sir,
yours faithfully,
(sd) CALVERT VAUX.
*Arch.*

T. S. SCOTT, Esq.,
*Chief Architect,*
*Dept. of Public Works,*
Ottawa.

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**CALVERT VAUX, Architect, New York, to T. S. SCOTT, Chief Architect, Department Public Works, Ottawa.**

No. 3.

110 BROADWAY, N. Y.,
*June* 23rd, 1873.

DEAR SIR,

I send you enclosed two tracings of a modification of the design, which will I think fit to the drawing you have.

Many improvements in detail will doubtless suggest themselves in working out the study, but the enclosed is so much better than the drawing sent that I shall feel obliged to you if you will gum it over the other and consider it as part of the plan.

Yours truly,
(sd) CALVERT VAUX,
*Architect.*

T. S. SCOTT, Esq.
*Chief Architect,*
*Dept. of Public Works,*
Ottawa.

**T. S. SCOTT, Chief Architect, to F. BRAÜN, Secretary, Public Works Department.**

No. 4.

OTTAWA, 2nd *July*, 1873.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with instructions received as per your letter of the 6th day of June, 1873, I proceeded to the City of New York, and there consulted with one of the Architects of the Central Park in that city, in relation to the laying out of the Grounds of the Public Buildings, Ottawa. Mr. Calvert Vaux, the gentleman referred to, after having taken into consideration the requirements, made out a sketch plan, and in order the more clearly to elucidate the ideas he had sketched out, devoted the best portion of two days to inspecting the Central Park in the City of New York, and the New Park in the City of Brooklyn, the latter being now in course of construction under his immediate superintendance.

The result I now beg to enclose in the shape of a Trace Plan, accompanied with a general description, which after having been laid before the Honorable the Minister, and laid out roughly on the grounds, has met with his consent, except alteration in diameter of circle, he having given it on the afternoon of the 30th instant.

Mr. Vaux requests that a preliminary fee of $500 U. S. currency be forwarded him, and so soon as the value or cost of work be obtained, that his services be recompensed at the rate of 1 per cent. on the outlay of the cost; as to the point on which this charge is to extend will be a matter of arrangement and consideration.

I may mention that I experienced from him every attention, and, that so far as the limited time accorded, received information on all the various points, in order that the design or sketch can be properly carried out.

He considers it advisable that he should visit Ottawa, as in practise, the dimensions, &c., shown on a drawing may not accord as to proportion, &c., what he on a personal inspection might to a *slight* extent alter.

I do not think this to be necessary, the more so as his fees for visit will be the sum of $500, and expenses extra.

I may add that working drawings of the Terrace Stone-work, &c., are now being prepared in my office, so that contracts for the work may be given out at an early date.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant

(sd) THOS. S. SCOTT
*Chief Architect, P. W.*

F. BRAUN, Esq.,
*Secretary,*
*Dept. of Public Works.*
Ottawa.

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**CALVERT VAUX, Architect, 110 Broadway, N. Y., to THOMAS. S. Scott, Chief Architect, Department Public Works, Ottawa.**

No. 5.

110 BROADWAY,
New York, *Aug.* 13th, 1873.

DEAR SIR,

I send you a copy of Description accompanying our plan for Centennial Building, which you may like to look over.

You received the design in due course I hope I have not heard from you in regard to same, and should be glad to do so.

The promised cheque for $500 on account has not been received. Please forward it and oblige,

Yours faithfully,
(s'd) CALVERT VAUX

T. S. SCOTT, Esq.,
*Chief Architect,*
*Dept. Public Works,*
Ottawa.

**F. BRAÜN, Secretary, Public Works Department, Ottawa, to CALVERT VAUX, Architect, New York.**

No. 6.

OTTAWA, 2nd *May*. 1874.

SIR,

I have the honor to send you the enclosed draft on New York for $500 Am. Cy., in payment in full for your plan and description with reference to laying out the Government Grounds, at Ottawa, as per accompanying receipt, in duplicate, which please sign and return to me at this office.

I am further directed to state that it is not the intention of the Government to carry out your design.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(s'd) F. BRAÜN,
*Secretary*.

CALVERT VAUX, Esq.,
*Architect*,
New York.

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**CALVERT VAUX, Architect, 110 Broadway, N. Y., to F. BRAÜN, Secretary, Department Public Works, Ottawa.**

No. 7.

110 BROADWAY,
New York, *May* 9th, 1874.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of May 2nd, enclosing draft for $500, which you state to be payment in full for plan and description in reference to laying out the Government Grounds at Ottawa. As your letter also informs me that it is not the intention of the Government to execute the design, I sign the receipt, although my understanding with the Government representative, Mr. Scott, was

that I should receive for the study a commission of one per cent. on the outlay. In the settlement of such important questions delays and changes of view often occur, and if the decision should be reversed at some future time, and my design should be adopted, the original understanding with Mr. Scott would, I trust, be carried out.

I remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(s'd) CALVERT VAUX,

*Landscape Architect.*

F. BRAUN, Esq.,

*Secretary,*

*Dept. Public Works,*

Ottawa.

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**THOMAS S. SCOTT, Chief Architect, to F. BRAÜN Secretary, Department Public Works, Ottawa.**

No. 8.

OTTAWA, 3rd *Aug.*, 1874.

SIR,

I beg to inform you that the Minister has given me instructions to carry out the plan of laying out the Public Grounds as arranged by Mr. Vaux of New York and myself, also that it was arranged to let to Mr. B. Gibson (who is at present the contractor for excavation of Public Grounds,) the necessary excavation for retention of West Block Departmental Buildings, drain and Main Avenue, and junctions to ditto, prices of which work to be founded upon his present contract.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(s'd) THOS. S. SCOTT

*Chief Architect P. W.*

F. BRAUN, Esq.,

*Secretary,*

*Dept. Public Works.*

Ottawa.

**CALVERT VAUX, Architect, 110 Broadway, N.Y., to Hon. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, Minister of Public Works, Canada.**

No. 9.

110 BROADWAY,
New York, *Sept.* 25th, 1876.

SIR,

I am informed that the suggestions introduced in my plan for the improvement of the grounds about the Parliament Buildings are being executed.

Will you kindly let me know what are the facts in the matter, as you will perceive, by reference to the original agreement, that the execution of the design would open my claim for additional compensation.

Respectfully,

(s'd) CALVERT VAUX,
*Architect.*

HON. ALEX. MACKENZIE,
*Minister Public Works.*
Ottawa.

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**CALVERT VAUX, Architect, 110 Broadway, N. Y., to Hon. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, Minister of Public Works, Canada.**

No. 10.

110 BROADWAY,
New York, *Nov.* 20th, 1876.

SIR,

I am informed that the suggestions embodied in my plan for the improvements of the grounds about the Parliament buildings are being executed.

Will you kindly let me know what are the facts in the matter, as you will perceive, by reference to the original agreement, that the execution of the design would open my claim for additional compensation.

Respectfully,

(sd) CALVERT VAUX,
*Architect.*

HON. ALEX. MACKENZIE,
*Minister Public Works.*
Ottawa.

NOTE.—No reply having been received to letter No. 9, letter No. 10 was written two months subsequently.

**F. BRAÜN, Secretary, Dept. Public Works, to CALVERT VAUX, Architect, New York.**

No. 11.

OTTAWA, *Jany.* 24th, 1877.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th November last, (received here on the 11th inst.,) in which you state you are informed that the suggestions embodied in your plan for the improvement of the grounds about the Parliament Buildings in this city are being executed, and request to know the facts of the case, and further make reference to the question of additional compensation beyond the sum of $500, sent you on the 7th May, 1874, which amount, my letter accompanying the remittance, purported to be in full payment for your plan and description.

In reply I am to inform you that it is true that since the date of my letter as above, another alternative design was partially acted on in some features, but it was decided to carry out the general features only of your plan, and that in accordance with such determination the works have been executed by the Architects of the Government.

The Chief Architect was not authorized to enter into any agreement with any person for plans and the execution of the works, and he states that no agreement was made in regard to paying you a percentage on the works to be executed, and as you were not called upon to furnish working drawings or detailed plans, which were prepared in this Department, the Minister does not see how he can order any further payment to be made to you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(s'd) F. BRAÜN,

*Secretary.*

CALVERT VAUX, Esq.,

*Architect.*

New York.

**CALVERT VAUX, Architect, New York, to F. BRAUN, Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa.**

No. 12.

NEW YORK, *March* 1st, 1877.

SIR,

Your reply, dated January 24th, to my communication of Nov. 20th last, is duly received. As your letter of May 2nd, 1874, enclosing draft for $500, stated that the Government did not intend to adopt the design, I signed the receipt in full for services to date, at the same time drawing your attention, in my letter of acknowledgment, to the possibility that the decision might be reversed, and urging that if it was determined at any time to carry out the general idea embodied in my plan, my agreement with Mr. Scott should be fulfilled.

This agreement was a verbal one, and in no way special, being based on my ordinary business circular, which I enclose.

As the problem to be solved was an important one, involving large outlays, and of a character to which my professional attention had for many years been directed, I feel that its successful solution is inadequately represented by a fee of $500, and I trust that a more full examination into the facts of the case on the part of the Government may lead to a recognition of the validity of my claim for further compensation.

I remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(sd) CALVERT VAUX.

F. BRAUN, Esq.
*Secretary,*
*Dept. Public Works.*
Ottawa.

*Copy of Business Circular referred to as enclosed in foregoing letter.*

CALVERT VAUX

ARCHITECT

No. 110 Broadway, New York.

## SCHEDULE OF CHARGES.

FOR FULL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 5 PER CENT.

1 per cent. for Preliminary Studies.

1½ per cent. for General Drawings and Specifications.

1 per cent. for Detail Drawings.

1½ per cent. for Superintendence.

5 per cent—Full Commission.